

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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-----082692 060953Z /23

R 060822Z JAN 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8548  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MPOL KS US  
SUBJ: STRATTON CODEL VISIT TO KOREA

SUMMARY: ROK PRESS GIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO STRATTON CODEL VISIT. STRATTON PRESS CONFERENCE NOTES FLUIDITY OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL PROPOSAL, STRESSES CONGRESSIONAL PEROGATIVES, POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES WHICH MIGHT IMPROVE WITHDRAWAL PLAN. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION HEADED BY CONGRESSMAN STRATTON ARRIVED IN KOREA WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4 AND HELD PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING OF JANUARY 5. STORIES CONCERNING DELEGATION'S ARRIVAL AND PRESS CONFERENCE MORNING OF JAN. 5 WERE CARRIED IN ALL SEOUL NEWSPAPERS AFTERNOON JAN. 5 AND MORNING JAN. 6. ALL PAPERS CARRIED PRESS CONFERENCE STORY ON FRONT PAGE, BUT ONLY OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN AND ITS ENGLISH LANGUAGE AFFILIATE KOREA HERALD GAVE IT TOP HEADLINE COVERAGE.

2. HEADLINES IN MOST ARTICLES EMPHASIZED THE FLUID NATURE OF THE US WITHDRAWAL POLICY AS CHARACTERIZED IN STRATTON PRESS CONFERENCE. STORIES MENTIONED THAT STRATTON HAD SAID WITHDRAWAL POLICY WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF BEING  
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WORKED OUT AND THAT NOTHING AT THIS POINT WAS "WRITTEN IN STONE." PRESS ALSO NOTED STRATTON REFERENCES TO CHANGES THAT HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE IN TROOP WITHDRAWAL PROPOSAL, E.G., ADDITIONAL EMPHASIS ON CONSULTATION AND MORE UNWILLINGNESS TO SPECIFY PRECISE FINAL WITHDRAWAL DATE. STRATTON REPORTEDLY THEN WENT ON TO SAY "WE WANT TO FIND OUT WHETHER PERHAPS THERE MAY BE OTHER CHANGES

THAT WE COULD GO BACK AND RECOMMEND TO OUR COLLEAGUES IN CONGRESS THAT MIGHT BE MADE IN THIS PROPOSAL THAT WOULD IMPROVE IT."

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO NOTED THAT CHAIRMAN STRATTON EMPHASIZED PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO GATHER INFORMATION BY TALKING TO US OFFICIALS AND COMMANDERS IN KOREA AND KOREAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS, AND THEIR IMPACT. PRESS STORIES NOTED STRATTON SAID MEMBERS OF HIS COMMITTEE FEEL THAT ASIA IS AN IMPORTANT AREA TO US SECURITY AND WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT AREA REMAINS PEACEFUL AND STABLE. PRESS ALSO NOTED STRATTON EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ANOTHER WAR IN ASIA AND AVOIDING TAKING ACTIONS THAT MIGHT INCREASE RISK OF WAR OR CREATE POSSIBILITY OF WAR.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES CONCERNING EFFECT OF PARK TONGSUN CASE ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL ISSUE, STRATTON REPORTEDLY SAID COMMITTEE DID NOT WISH TO GET INTO PARK TONGSUN MATTER BECAUSE IT DID NOT CONCERN HIS COMMITTEE. HE WENT ON TO SAY, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT PROBLEMS SURROUNDING PARK TONGSUN CASE HAD COMPLICATED WILLINGNESS OF CONGRESS TO CONSIDER ANY KIND OF LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD TRANSFER AMERICAN EQUIPMENT OR APPROPRIATE MONEY FOR KOREA OR FOR KOREAN DEFENSE. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AGREEMENT ON PARK CASE WHICH HAD BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORKED OUT WOULD MEAN THAT CASE WOULD NO LONGER BE A PROBLEM.

5. REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT CONGRESS HAD IN PAST REFUSED TO ACCEED TO PROPOSALS THAT THERE BE TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND THAT THEREFORE CONGRESSIONAL AGREEMENT TO TROOP WITHDRAWALS IN THE FUTURE WOULD BE A REVERSAL OF CONGRESSIONAL AND HENCE NATIONAL POLICY. HE NOTED THAT THIS ADDED IMPORTANCE TO FINDINGS OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION.

6. PRESS ALSO CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF DELEGATION'S MEETING WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG IL KWON AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG JIN JANUARY 5. PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MEETING WITH SPEAKER, BASED ON BRIEFING GIVEN BY SPEAKER'S SENIOR SECRETARY, EMPHASIZED THAT SPEAKER TOLD DELEGATION THAT US, BEFORE PULLING FORCES FROM KOREA, SHOULD GIVE POSITIVE SUPPORT TO CONCLUSION OF NONAGGRESSION PACT BETWEEN SEOUL AND PYONGYANG AND FOR ADMISSION OF BOTH NATIONS TO UN.

7. IN FACT, ALTHOUGH SPEAKER TOUCHED ON THESE SUBJECTS WITH STRATTON DELEGATION, THE MAIN THRUST OF HIS REMARKS

WAS THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF KOREA IN ASIAN POWER BALANCE  
AND NECESSITY FOR US TO GIVE KOREA MORE TIME THAN JUST  
THE FOUR TO FIVE YEARS CONTEMPLATED IN THE PRESENT WITH-  
DRAWAL PLAN. THE SPEAKER MADE STRONG PITCH FOR TEN  
YEAR WITHDRAWAL. PRESS ACCOUNTS, HOWEVER, DID NOT CARRY  
REFERENCE TO THIS PITCH BY SPEAKER, PROBABLY BECAUSE IT  
IS AT VARIANCE WITH GUIDANCE GIVEN TO ROKG OFFICIALS BY  
PRESIDENT PARK.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CODELS, VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
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**Draft Date:** 06 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** MPOL, KS, US  
**To:** STATE  
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